

# Attributes of an Effective Legislature

How Does LA House of Representatives Grade by Special Committee Members

## Balancing Power

10 Point Scale:

Legislature effectively shares power with the governor.	<u>2.57</u> -----D
Legislature initiates and enacts its own legislation.	<u>5.57</u> -----C
Legislature makes independent decisions about the Governor's legislative package.	<u>4</u> -----D
Legislature makes independent decisions about the state budget.	<u>3.57</u> -----D
Legislature wisely utilizes the interim to study facts and create a legislative package	<u>2.71</u> -----D
Legislature adequately utilizes tools to effectively oversee the administration of laws by the Executive	<u>3.17</u> -----D

## Representing Constituents

Legislative districts are nearly equal in population.	<u>8.29</u> -----B
The numbers of women, African Americans and Hispanics are reasonably reflective of the population of the state.	<u>5.86</u> -----C
The members of the legislature provide effective constituent service including responses to requests for information, casework, local projects and public expenditures.	<u>8</u> -----B
Citizens and groups in the state have ready access to information on agendas and proceedings of the legislature.	<u>8.29</u> -----B
The legislature provides effective civic education for the public (of all age levels) about representative democracy, the legislative institution and the lawmaking process.	<u>7</u> -----B
The legislature is responsive to public demands and needs.	<u>8.33</u> -----B

A =9,10   B=7,8   C=5,6   D=3,4   F=1,2

### **Making Law**

The legislature allows effective participation and input from citizens and organized groups in lawmaking decisions.	<u>7.71</u> -----B
There is a reasonable level of internal democracy within the chamber. Power is relatively dispersed and the parliamentary rights of individual members are protected and respected.	<u>7.17</u> -----B
Legislative leaders are effective and have strategic, problem-solving and consensus-building abilities.	<u>5</u> -----C
The degree of partisanship in the legislature is reasonable.	<u>4.57</u> -----C/B
The majority party has enough clout to get things done.	<u>3.57</u> -----D
The rights of the minority party are protected.	<u>5.14</u> -----C
There are reasonable restraints on partisanship so that civility is maintained.	<u>5.86</u> -----C
The legislature is deliberative. It does allow for give and take and the open exchange of ideas at all stages of the formal and informal legislative process.	<u>6</u> -----C
The legislature does engage in consensus building. Opposing sides are willing to negotiate differences and find compromises to difficult problems.	<u>5</u> -----C
The legislature does address and solve the most important problems in the state.	<u>5.43</u> -----C

### **Facilitating Factors**

The legislature has the resources (staff, time, facilities, technology) to do its job effectively.	<u>7.29</u> -----B
The legislature has integrity. The members of the legislature and the Capitol community in general, behave in ethical ways.	<u>7.43</u> -----B
The members of the legislature care about and protect the well-being of the institution.	<u>7.43</u> -----B
There is a sense of community within the legislature. There is civility and collegiality.	<u>7.71</u> -----B
There is adequate continuity in the membership of the legislature to promote institutional values and pass on knowledge and skills.	<u>6.86</u> -----B